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Documents on Prisoners of War

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DOCUMENT NO. 18

TREATY OF ADRIANOPLE, BEING A TREATY OF PEACE BETWEEN THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA AND THE EMPEROR OF THE OTTOMANS
(14 September 1829)

SOURCES

2 Hertslet 813
16 BFSP 647
80 Parry 83

NOTE

This treaty, signed at Adrianople (now Edirne) on 14 September 1829, brought to an end another of the numerous wars between Russia and Turkey. Like other peace treaties of the Parties of this era (see DOCUMENT NO. 6), it contained a provision excepting from the requirement of liberation and return those prisoners of war who had, while in that category, elected to change their religion.

EXTRACTS

ART. XIV. All the Prisoners of War, of whatsoever nation, condition, and sex they may be, who are in the two Empires, must, immediately after the exchange of the Ratifications of the present Treaty of Peace, be delivered up and restored without the least ransom or payment. Exception is made in favour of the Christians who, of their own free will, have embraced the Mahometan religion, in the States of the Sublime Porte, and of the Mahometans, who in like manner, of their own free will, have embraced the Christian religion in the States of the Empire of Russia.

The same shall be observed with respect to the Russian subjects, who, after the signing of the present Treaty of Peace, may have, in any manner, fallen into captivity, and who are in the States of the Sublime Porte. The Imperial Court of Russia promises, on its part, to act in the same manner towards the subjects of the Sublime Porte.

No reimbursement of the sums which have been expended by the High Contracting Powers for the maintenance of the Prisoners of War, shall be required. Each of them shall provide all that is necessary for them during their journey to the frontier, where they will be exchanged by Commissioners appointed respectively.